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HOW BULGARIA IS GOVERNED

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PREFACE

THIS is a short brochure on the constitutional and administrative system of *Bulgaria*. The purpose of this description is to provide our countrymen, specially the student-world, with a picture of *Bulgarian* executive, legislature and judiciary. It also throws light on some other important aspects of local and central administration of *Bulgaria* and presents an authentic account of its role in international affairs.

It may be added that the entire or most of the material of this brochure is based on the fact sheets, reference papers and other official publications supplied to us by the *Bulgarian* Embassy or Government. The volume narrates the whole matter, just as it is described in the official publications of the concerned Embassy or Government. Only the sequence has been arranged to make it easier for the reader to understand the subject-matter. We are extremely grateful to the *Bulgarian* Embassy for generously providing us with the material of our interest and extending co-operation in every respect.

It need hardly be added that the publishers do not claim or acknowledge any responsibility for the views expressed or matter described in the volume.

Once again we express our gratitude to the *Bulgarian* Embassy for supplying us material of our interest and extending their kind co-operation.

Publishers

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I

INTRODUCTION

SITUATION AND TERRITORY

Bulgaria is situated in South Eastern Europe. It occupies the north-eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula. To the north the River Danube forms her natural boundary with the Rumanian Socialist Republic, to the west she borders on Yugoslavia, to the south—on Greece and Turkey, and to the east on the Black Sea which connects her with the Soviet Union and all the maritime countries in the world.

The country covers an area of about 111,000 square kilometres.

Owing to her geographical situation Bulgaria is an important international crossroads: the railway line and the highway connecting Western,

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Central and Northern Europe with the Near and Middle East pass through her territory

CLIMATE

The climate of the greater part of the country is moderately continental (specifically in North Bulgaria), whereas the climate of the Thracian Plain and the Southern frontier areas is of a transitional nature, ranging from continental to Mediterranean

The mean annual temperature is about 12° Centigrade. In January the mean temperature is about 0° Centigrade and in July it is about 22° Centigrade. Rainfall totals about 650 litres per square metre per year.

POPULATION, TOWNS AND VILLAGES

By the middle of 1970 Bulgaria's population totalled 8.5 million (average density 76.3 persons per sq. km.). The Bulgarians make up 81 per cent. of the population. Other nationalities are Turks, Gypsies, Armenians, Russians, Greeks, Tartars, and Rumanians.

All nationalities enjoy equal rights and liberties and take an active part in the government of the country and in its economic and cultural life.

In Bulgaria there are 170 towns, 19 urban type localities and 5,494 villages. Sofia (known in Antiquity as Serdica and later as Sredets) is the country's capital. It has nearly one million inhabitants.

HISTORICAL DATA

1 Foundation, Consolidation and Advance of the First Bulgarian State (7th to 11th Centuries)

The Bulgarian state was founded in 680 as a result of a treaty of alliance between two ethnic groups, the Proto-Bulgarians and the Southern Slavs.

The Southern Slavs, who belong to the Indo-European ethnic group, settled in the Balkan Peninsula in the 6th

century, while the Proto-Bulgarians, a tribe of Turkic origin, led by their Khan Asparouh, made their way into the 7th century

The Proto-Bulgarians made an alliance with the Slav tribes, thus laying the foundations of the Slav Bulgarian state. In 681 Byzantium was compelled to grant official recognition to the Slav-Bulgarian state. Pliska became the capital of Bulgaria.

During the 9th and 10th centuries Bulgaria reached the peak of her military and political power at that time.

During the reign of Khan Kroum (803-814) a remarkable commander and statesman, and the first Bulgarian legislator, the Bulgarians routed the Avars in the west and in 811 dealt Byzantium the greatest blow it had ever suffered until that day. The Emperor Nicephorous I fell in the battle. By the middle of the 9th century Bulgaria bordered on the River Tisza in the north west, on the Carpathian Mountains in the north, on the Dnieper in the east, on the Adriatic Sea in the South west and on the Rhodopes in the south.

The adoption of Christianity as the official state religion in the reign of Knyaz Boris (852-889) did much to iron out the religious differences between Slavs and Proto-Bulgarians. The Slavonic script, evolved by the Salonica brothers Cyril and Methodius in 855 and introduced into Bulgaria after 885 by their disciples, gave a strong impetus to Bulgaria's socio-economic and cultural development. Bulgaria was the first European country which introduced the popular language of the people into literature.

Under Tsar Simeon (893-927) the Bulgarian state reached the zenith of its power, territorial expansion and cultural progress. During this Golden Age of Bulgarian Letters, Bulgaria became the centre of Slavonic literature and culture. Preslav was now the capital of the country, where the first Bulgarian writers, John the Exarch, Konstantin Preslavski and Chernorizets (the Monk) Hrabr lived and worked.

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The long exhausting wars with the Byzantines, the internecine struggle between the feudal lords, and the impoverishment of the people greatly weakened the Bulgarian state. Dissatisfaction was rife among the oppressed masses and their hatred of the ruling classes found expression in the Bogomil movement, so named after the priest Bogomil, its foremost preacher. Bogomilism was one of the first socio-political movements in Europe against the feudal lords, the official church and private property. It penetrated Asia Minor, Serbia and Bosnia, France and Italy under the name of Cathari, Albigenses and Waldenses.

Taking advantage of the decline of the country, the Byzantines resumed their aggressive wars against Bulgaria and in 972 succeeded in subjugating her eastern provinces, Western Bulgaria with Ohrid as its capital, fought for her independence until 1081 under Tsar Samouil, a remarkable commander and statesman.

2 The Second Bulgarian State

In 1187, under the pressure of a powerful popular uprising under the leadership of the brothers Peter and Assen, Byzantium recognized the independence of the Bulgarian territories north of the Balkan Range. Thus the foundations of the Second Bulgarian State were laid, with Turnovo as its capital. In the reign of Assen and Peter's energetic young brother Tsar Kaloyan (1197-1207), the Bulgarian people liberated almost all the territories which were still under Byzantine rule. Eastern Moesia, Thrace, Macedonia and the region of Belgrade. On April 14, 1205, Kaloyan's cavalry routed the Crusaders at Adrianople (today Edirne) and took captive their Emperor Baldwin of Flanders.

Bulgaria reached the zenith of her power under Tsar Ivan Assen II (1218-1241) becoming the strongest state in South Eastern Europe.

Under Ivan Assen's successors Bulgaria again declined. In 1277 a mass peasant anti-feudal uprising broke out. It was

headed by the peasant swineheard Ivailo Burdokva. The insurgents seized Turnovo and Ivailo was proclaimed Tsar.

After the defeat of the uprising, the central power weakened in Bulgaria while that of the boyar nobility was greatly strengthened. Bulgaria failed to resist the pressure of the Ottoman invaders. After a difficult siege, the Ottomans captured the capital Turnovo in 1393, and in 1396 the whole of Bulgaria was subjugated, becoming a province of the Ottoman Empire.

The hardest period in the history of the Bulgarian people began now. The Ottoman conquerors oppressed the population most cruelly. The monasteries, churches and libraries of the First and Second Bulgarian States were destroyed or burnt wholesale.

However, the Bulgarian people did not give in. Armed uprisings and rebellions broke out throughout the country, and they were always quelled with great cruelty.

3 The People's National-Liberation Movement in the 18th and 19th Centuries (Bulgaria's Liberation)

During the second half of the 18th century, an organised struggle for national and social liberation developed in Bulgaria.

The first ideologist of the National Revival was the monk Paisii of Hilendar (1722-1798). In 1762 he wrote the *Slav Bulgarian History*, which was an ardent appeal to the Bulgarian people to preserve their tongue and national consciousness and to fight for a national revival and liberation.

Under the influence of the ideas of this Revival, a powerful movement for education developed among the Bulgarian people in the first half of the 19th century. The struggle for religious independence from the Greek Patriarchate also came to the fore. The Greek Church had been

tyring to impose a spritual yoke on the Bulgarian people and to force them to accept the Greek language officially

In the sixties and seventies of last century the Bulgarian Revival reached its culmination in a powerful national revolutionary mavement for the complete liberation of Bulgaria from Ottoman bondage

The ideologist and organizer of that movement was Georgi Sava Rakovski (1821-1867) He created the Bulgarian Legion, the first armed force of the national revolution, which took an active part in the revolt of the Serbs against Ottoman oppression Rakovski advocated a revolution that would be kindled by armed detachments organised abroad which would be taken into Bulgaria This tactics did not prove adequate

New methods of revolutionary struggle were worked out by Vassil Levski (1837-1873), a consistent revolutionary and democrat He argued the need of setting up revolutionary committees to prepare a general uprising inside the country

In 1869 Vassil Levski and Lyuben Karavelov, another outstanding figure of the Bulgarian Revival, a revolutionary, a writer and democrat, founded a Bulgarian Secret Revolutionary Committee in a Bucharest, which headed the national liberation movement

Vassil Levski returned to Bulgaria where the created Internal Secret Revolutionary Organisation with numerous local committees But at the height of the preparations for a people's revolution he was betrayed, arrested by the Turks and hanged in Sofia in 1873

After Levski's execution, the fiery poet and great revolutionary democrat and utopian socialist, Hristo Botev (1848-1876), took his place and headed the struggle

The people s aspirations for freedom and independence culminated in the heroic April Uprising in 1876 In spite of

the unmatched heroism and selflessness of the insurrectionist, the uprising was put down with great cruelty. However, the April Uprising shook the foundations of the Ottoman Empire. The most renowned scientists, writers, journalists and public figures like Victor Hugo, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Garibaldi, Darwin, Mendeleev and Mac Gahan raised their voices in defence of Bulgaria's just cause. A national wide movement for the liberation of the Bulgarian brothers was launched in Russia.

In April 1877, Russia declared war on Turkey, a war which ended in the defeat of the Ottoman army. On March 3, 1878, Turkey signed the Treaty of San Stefano, declaring her surrendered and acknowledging Bulgaria's independence.

4. Bulgaria under Capitalist Rule (1878-1944)

The Russo-Turkish War of Liberation not only delivered the Bulgarian people from foreign bondage, but also put an end to the Ottoman military feudal system. Conditions were created for the unhappened capitalist development of the country. The building of railway lines, ports and industrial enterprises was put in hand. Foreign capital penetrated the country more and more, placing its economy in a state of dependence.

The development of capitalism and the extension of trade among the Balkan countries were delayed, however, because Macedonia, Thrace, Kosovo and Albania still remained under Ottoman domination.

In 1912 Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia and Montenegro formed the Balkan Alliance and opened hostilities against Turkey. In only 25 days Turkey was defeated and forced to sue for peace. Action against the Turks had hardly stopped, however, when differences arose between the allies. Against the will of the Balkan peoples the Interallied War June-July 1913 broke out. The Bulgarian army had to fight the armies of Greece, Serbia and Montenegro. At the

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same time the Turkish and Rumanian armies also invaded Bulgaria. The Bulgarian government had to ask for a cessation of hostilities.

Tsar Ferdinand (enthroned in 1887) plunged Bulgaria into the First World War (1915-18) on the side of Germany, with the hope of recovering the territories lost after the Balkan War. The first World War caused untold sufferings to the Bulgarian people. The economy was damaged and industry suffered a crisis, while the profiteers took advantage of the war to pile up riches through shady deals.

In September 1918 the soldier's masses rose in arms, routed the military headquarters, and proclaimed Bulgaria a republic. The insurrectionists went as far as the outskirts of Sofia. But here the government forces defeated them with the aid of German units. Although it was put down, the mutiny speeded up Bulgaria's withdrawal from the war and forced Tsar Ferdinand to abdicate in favour of his son Boris III and to leave the country.

The Bulgarian Agrarian Union, headed by Alexander Stamboliski, came to power into complex and difficult situation after the First World War. Stamboliski began to carry out social reforms.

But his enemies, together with Tsar Boris, formed a secret fascist organization and staged a military fascist coup defeat on June 9, 1923. A cabinet was formed headed by Alexander Tsankov, leader of the fascists. Alexander Stamboliski was captured and savagely assassinated.

A period of unprecedented terror set in. Thousands of communists, workers and peasants were imprisoned and brought to trial. Under the circumstances the Communist Party had no recourse but to resort to a mass revolutionary armed struggle, as a legitimate means of self defence from fascism run amuck.

In September 1923 the Bulgarian people rose in an armed struggle. The uprising lasted two weeks. This first anti fascist uprising in the world was put down with unprecedented cruelty. Over 20,000 workers, peasants and representatives of the people's intelligentsia were shot, hanged or burnt alive. Thousands of others were arrested, tortured and imprisoned. Thousands were forced to flee the country.

The fascist terror failed to intimidate the people. The struggle assumed even broader proportions and a more mass character. In the Parliament Elections of 1931, the people voted for the Narodn Bloc, a coalition of bourgeois parties which had not been involved in the fascist crimes. The Narodn Bloc government was in power until 1934, when the reactionary forces established and undisguised fascist dictatorship by means of a coup d'etat. The last vestiges of bourgeois democracy were done away with. All political parties were banned.

In this period, Georgi Dimitrov's historic victory over the nazis in Germany at the Reichstage Fire Trial in Leipzig (1933), played an important role in rallying the people's masses and strengthening the antifascist movement. At this trial, from being one of the accused, the great son of the Bulgarian people assumed the part of an accuser. With tremendous power he unmasked the barbarous anti popular and militaristic nature of fascism and called upon the masses to unite in an struggle against war and fascism.

The treacherous attack of nazi Germany on the Soviet Union in June 22, 1941, and Bulgarians joining the Tripartite Pact provoked a powerful wave of indignation and protest among the masses. Two day after the attack of the nazi troops against the Soviet Union, the Communist Party in Bulgaria took the course of an armed struggle against the nazi occupiers and their Bulgarian stooges. Combat groups were organized in the towns and in many villages for

wrecking and subversive actions. Partisan detachments were formed in many regions of the country.

In 1942, on the initiative of George Dimitrov, the Fatherland Front was founded, uniting all progressive and democratic parties and persons in the fight against fascism, to save Bulgaria.

In 1943 the revolutionary movement in Bulgaria assumed a mass character. New partisan detachments and combat groups were formed. A general headquarter of the People's Liberation Army was set up to guide the partisan movement, and the country was divided into 12 operational zones.

An army of 100,000 and special gendarmerie units were sent against the partisan detachments. In the battles, 9,415 men and women partisans died, and 20,070 of their helpers were shot or burnt alive without a trial by the fascists. Dozens or thousands of fighters perished in prisons and concentration camps. More than 20,000 fighters passed through the police inferno, and 2,139 houses of anti-fascists were burnt down.

In 1944 the partisan detachments grew into brigades. The partisans fought bloody battles with the fascist army and gendarmerie, and captured police headquarters and villages.

5 Bulgaria along the road to Socialism

In August, 1944 on the instructions of Georgi Dimitrov, the Fatherland Front proceeded to a direct preparation of the people's uprising which was to overthrow the fascist government in Bulgaria.

In the first days of September, 1944, the working people in Sofia, Pernik and other towns declared a general political strike. The partisan detachments and brigades occupied many villages, setting up the rule of the Fatherland Front.

in whole regions. In a number of towns the masses broke down the gates of the prisons and set free the political prisoners.

On September 8 the Soviet forces entered Bulgaria's territory and were welcomed as liberators with bread and salt according to the national custom.

The decisive blow against the monarcho-fascist government was struck in the night of the 8th of September in Sofia. The people rose in arms and together with the partisan detachments and the army units which had passed over to the side of the people, captured the capital and arrested the regents and the government. A Fatherland Front government was set up. That same day power passed into the hands of the Fatherland Front throughout the country. The fascist rulers and hangmen were arrested, and the nazi detachments on Bulgarian soil were disarmed. A People's Military was set up.

The Fatherland Front Government declared war on nazi Germany. The new Bulgarian army, consisting of 450,000 soldiers, cut off the retreat of the nazi forces in Yugoslavia along the valley of the River Vardar and Morava in victorious battles. In December 1944, the First Bulgarian Army 130,000 strong, took up positions along the Rivers Sava and Drava in Yugoslavia. Early in 1945 the Army launched an all-out offensive, fought heavy battles with the nazis at the River Drava and Lake Balaton and early in May reached the Alps near the town of Klagenfurt. There it met with detachments of the British Army advancing from the West. In the war to defeat nazi Germany, the Bulgarian people lost some 32000 killed at the front. Bulgaria was recognized as a co-belligerent.

Immediately after the triumph of the people's revolution on September 9, 1944, the state apparatus in the centre and locally was reconstructed and purged of all fascist elements. All fascist organizations were disbanded and banned.

All fascist and anti-popular laws were repealed. The new government restored and guaranteed the people's political rights and freedoms, the right to organization and association. The widest possible participation of the masses in political and cultural life and in the country's administration was ensured.

At the referendum held in September 1946 the overwhelming majority of the people (92.7 percent) voted to abolish the monarchy. Bulgaria became a People's Republic.

In October 1946 elections were held for the Grand National Assembly. The Communist Party won more than half of the seats in the elections. In general, three quarters of the deputies belonged to the Fatherland Front. The newly-established government of the Fatherland Front was headed by the generally acknowledged leader of the Bulgarian people, Georgi Dimitrov. The government implemented important political and economic measures which definitely led the country out on the socialist road.

A progressive income tax was introduced. A state monopoly of trade in alcoholic beverages and tobacco and state control over private commercial firms was established. Insurance was nationalized. A land reform was carried out, limiting the private ownership of land and placing it at the disposal of thousands of landless and poor peasant households. With the assistance of the state, the work of building up co-operative farms in the villages was put in hand.

On December 5, 1947, the Grand National Assembly adopted the constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, which legally consolidated the gains of the Bulgarian people and secured the country's development along the socialist road.

Industry, banks, mines and large urban property was nationalized. A planned construction of a socialist economy got under way.

In the period between 1949 and 1970, a modern large scale industry was created in Bulgaria, and the farms were merged into larger units. Industrial production in 1970 increased 36 times in comparison with 1939, and agricultural output rose by 2.4 times above the prewar level. The national income marked a 5.5-fold increase, as a result of which the living standards and culture of the people were also substantially improved.

In this period the socialist sector became master of the whole national economy. The socialist sector accounts for 99.6 per cent of industrial output, 99.7 per cent of agricultural production and 99.9 per cent of retail trade. Over 99.6 per cent of Bulgaria's national income is generated by the socialist sector.

As a result of the economic changes, radical changes also took place in the class structure of society, which is now composed of two friendly classes: that of the workers and that of the co-operative farmers, with which the people's intelligentsia is indissolubly linked.

Socialism, the new social system, has gained a final victory in Bulgaria.

2

SOCIO-POLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STRUCTURE OF THE STATE

The People's Republic of Bulgaria is a sovereign socialist state, which independently determines its domestic and foreign policy. It was established as the natural result of the revolutionary struggles of the working people against nazism and fascism. These struggles were crowned with success in 1944. People's democracy became the political form of organized society.

CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is the fundamental law which reflects and gives legal sanction to the social, economic and political foundations of

the people's democratic state order, the system and principles underlying the organisation, functions and competence of the state organs, the basic rights and duties of the citizens and the electoral system.

The Constitution proclaims national ownership as the economic foundation of the state. All natural resources, above and under ground, all sources of power, railway and air communications, post offices, telegraphs, telephones, radio-broadcasting and television are state-owned, i. e. the property of all the people.

Along with state ownership, the Constitution protects co-operative ownership and promotes co-operative associations

The Constitution also recognizes private property rights. The state protects personal property, acquired through work and saving, as well as the right to inherit it

In the case of land ownership, the Constitution proclaims the principle that the land belongs to those who till it. Large privately-owned estates are not allowed. Home and foreign trade are in the hands of the state.

Work is recognized as the fundamental social and economic factor and is under state protection

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is based on the principle. All power derives from the people and belongs to the people. In other words, the people are the sole masters in their country and no one else can stand above them. They alone are the holders of state power. Power is vested in representative state bodies, which are elected directly by the people.

Deputies in all representative bodies are responsible to their electors and may be recalled before the expiry of their term.

CREATION & AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

Article 143

1 A new constitution is adopted and the Constitution in force is amended on proposal of the State Council, the government, or at least one quarter of the national representatives

2 The draft of a new Constitution and the bill for the amendment of the Constitution in force are placed on the agenda not earlier than one month and not later than three months after being submitted to the National Assembly

3 They shall be adopted if two thirds of all national representatives vote in favour of them

4 The new Constitution and the bill for the amendment of the Constitution in force enter into force from the day of their publication in the Official Gazette

Provisional Stipulation

The presidium of the Fifth National Assembly shall implement the rights of the State Council until the election of a State Council by the next National Assembly

The present Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria was adopted in a national referendum on May 16, 1971 and was solemnly proclaimed on May 18, 1971 by the Fifth National Assembly during its 16th session

SOCIO POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE STATE

Articles 1 to 12 of the Bulgarian Constitution speaks of the socio political structure of the state

Art 1

1 The People's Republic of Bulgaria is a socialist state of the working people from town and country, headed by the working class

2 The guiding force in society and the state is the Bulgarian Communist Party

3 The Bulgarian Communist Party heads the construction of an advanced socialist society in the People's Republic of Bulgaria in close fraternal co operation with the Bulgarian Agrarian Union

Art 2

1 All power in the People's Republic of Bulgaria stems from the people and belongs to the people

2 The people implement this power through freely elected representative bodies—a National Assembly and people's councils—or directly

Art 3

1 The state serves the people by

Defending their interest and socialist gains,

Guiding the nation's planned socioeconomic development,

Creating conditions for a constant improvement of the well being, education and health services of the people, as well as for the all round promotion science and culture,

Securing man's free development, guaranteeing his rights and protecting his dignity,

Organizing the defence of the nation's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity,

Developing and cementing friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the other socialist countries,

Pursuing a policy of peace and understanding with all countries and peoples

2 In implementing its tasks, the state relies ever more widely on the public organizations

Art 4

1 The main lines in the development of the state in the construction of an advanced socialist society are,

constant broadening of democracy,

improvement of the organization and activities of the state apparatus,

acceleration of the people's control over the work of the state bodies

2 The socialist state shall promote the evolution of the socialist society into a communist society

Art 5

The main principles on which the political system of society is based and functions are national sovereignty, unity of power, democratic centralism, socialist democracy, legality and socialist internationalism

Art 6

1 The representative bodies are elected on the basis of universal equal and direct suffrage, by secret ballot

2 The mandate of the National Assembly is five years and of the people's councils, two and a half years

3 Electors and eligible are all citizens of the People's Republic of Bulgaria who have completed eighteen years of age, irrespective of ex nationality, race, creed, education, occupation, official or social status and property status, with the exception of those placed under complete tutelage

4 The order of electing the representative bodies shall be determined by law

Art 7

1 The national representatives and the councillors are responsible and report to their electorate. They may be recalled before the expiry of the term for which they were elected

2 The recall of national representatives takes place by decision of the electorate taken in the order established by law

Art 8

1 The People's Republic of Bulgaria is governed strictly in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the country

2 Strict observance of the Constitution and the laws is a basic duty of all state bodies, officials, public organisations and citizens

3 *The consolidation of legality and the prevention of crimes and violations of the laws is a duty of the state public organisations and citizens*

Art 9

1 The rights, liberties and obligations provided in the Constitution are exercised and implemented on the basis of the latter, except when it stipulates that the conditions and order of their implementation shall be determined by the law

2 Rights and liberties cannot be exercised to the detriment of public interest

Art 10

1 The public organisations rally and enlist the different strata of the population in socialist construction, express and defend their specific interests and work for raising their socialist consciousness

2 The public organisations collaborate ever more closely with the state bodies in the implementation of their tasks

3 The public organisations also perform the state functions transferred to them with their consent

Art 11

The Fatherland Front is an embodiment of the alliance of the working class, the toiling peasants and the people's intelligentsia. It is the social support of the people's rule, a mass school for the patriotic and communist education of the population and for enlisting the working people in the government of the country

Art 12

The People's Republic of Bulgaria forms part of the world socialist community, which is one of the main conditions for its independence and all round development

SOCIO ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Articles 13 to 33 of the Constitution are related to the socio economic structure of the State

Art 13

1 The economic system of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is socialist. It is based on the public ownership of the means of production, precluded the exploitation of man by man and develops into a communist economy in a planned manner

2 The development of the social economy underlies the all round progress of society and of the free individual, the broadening of socialist democracy, the people's well being and the upswing of the country

3 The economy of the People's Republic of Bulgaria develops as part of the world socialist economic system

Art 14

The forms of ownership in the People's Republic of Bulgaria are state (all people's) ownership, cooperative ownership, ownership of the public organisations and private ownership

Art 15

1 State (all people's) ownership is a supreme form of socialist ownership and constitutes an integral fund. It determines the socialist character of the ownership of the cooperative and public organisations and enjoys special protection

2 The forms of state ownership gradually develop and draw closer together eventually to evolve into a unified ownership of all the people

Art 16

1 Plants and factories, banks, subsoil wealth, natural sources of power, nuclear energy, forests, pastures, waters, roads, railway, water and air transport, posts, telegraphs, telephones, broadcasting and television are state (all people's) ownership

2. In cases stipulated by the law, the cooperatives and public organisations may possess means of production and other property

Art 17

1 The state implements its right of ownership by setting up economic and other organisations and participates in state-cooperative enterprises to which it grants property to be managed and administered, as well as through the activity of these organisations aimed at implementing their granted or acquired rights

2. The state may grant cooperative and public organisations and to citizens the right to use certain state property

3 The utilization of forests, pastures, waters and quarries by cooperative organisations and citizens shall be regulated by law

Art 18

The state economic organisations implement their activity in accordance with the principles of cost accounting

Art 19

1 Cooperative ownership belongs to the collective of working people, voluntary united for the joint performance of economic activities, to cooperative unions and inter cooperative organizations

2 The right of cooperative ownership is exercised in the interest of society and of the cooperators

Art 20

1 The ownership of the public organisations serves for the achievement of their aims, including the implementation of the activities transferred to them by state bodies, as well as for the satisfaction of public interests

2 The public organisations may perform economic activities in accordance with their aims in cases permitted by the law

Art 21

1 The citizens of the People's Republic of Bulgaria enjoy the right of private ownership over property and objects for meeting their own needs and those of their families

2. Private ownership are also the petty means of production and the output of the families of cooperative farmers and other working people from the land, placed at their disposal for personal use, as well as the petty means of production used by the working people for the performance of other auxiliary activities and the output from them. The kind and number of the petty means of production which may be owned in an auxiliary farm shall be determined by law

3 The state concedes the right of construction on state land grants credits, so as to meet the housing needs of the working people

4 The state protects private property acquired by personal work and in any other lawful manner including savings

5 The right of private ownership may be entailed or restricted only by a law or with the consent of the owner

6 Citizens may not exercise their right of private ownership and their other property rights to the detriment of public interest

Art 22

1 The state directs the national economy and the other spheres of public life on the basis of unified plans for socio economic development with a view to meeting ever more fully the constantly growing material and cultural needs of the citizens

2 In this activity, the state relies on the initiative and the constructive activities of the work forces, research institutes and public organizations and makes use of moral stimuli and collective and individual material incentives

3 In elaborating and implementing the socio economic development plans, the state makes effective use of the achievements of science and technology, the labour and material resources and the advantages of the international socialist division of labour

4 The state budget is drawn up on the basis of the national socio economic development plan

Art 23

1 The state encourages the cooperatives and their unions and promotes their activities

2 The state renders all round assistance to the cooperative farms

Art 24

The work forces participate directly and through bodies elected by them in the management of the economy

Art 25

The citizens may engage in farming, artisan and other economic activities with their personal work and with the labour of the members of their families, under conditions determined by the law. The law determines what means of production may be owned by these citizens

Art 26

1 Copyrights of works of science, literature and art, as well as the rights of inventors and innovators are protected by the state

2 The state, cooperative and public organizations create conditions conducive to the development of the creative activity and to using the works of authors, inventors and innovators for the economic and cultural progress of society

3 Authors, inventors and innovators may not use their rights in any way counter to the public interest

Art 27

The right of inheritance is recognized and guaranteed

Art 28

The state may expropriate or restrict the right of ownership over the property of citizens, cooperatives and public organizations for state and public needs against fair compensation. The order of expropriation and the way of indemnifications are determined by law

Art 29

1 The state may be granted by law the exclusive right to engage in a certain economic activity

2 Foreign trade is an exclusive right of the state

Art 30

1 The land as a basic natural resource and means of production is guarded and utilised in a manner most useful to society

2 The cooperative farms use rationally the lands pooled by the cooperators, by other persons and organizations or placed at their disposal by the state

3 The destination of arable farm lands, pastures and forests may be changed in the order established by law

Art 31

The state bodies and enterprises, the cooperatives and public organizations as well as every citizen, are duty bound to protect and preserve nature and natural resources, the water, air and soil, as well as the cultural monuments

Art 32

1 Labour is a basic socio-economic factor

2 The socialist principle "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his work" is valid in the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The social welfare funds for meeting the needs of the citizens are continuously increasing.

3 The state attends to the raising of the qualifications and know-how of the citizens. Labour protection is regulated by law.

Art 33

1 The state promotes science and technology with a view to securing a scientific management of society, scientific and technical progress and all-round economic and cultural advance.

2 The state bodies, economic and other organizations and all citizens are duty-bound to introduce the achievements of science and technology in all fields of public life.

3

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITIZENS

The Constitution provides that all citizens are equal before the law and have equal rights and obligations. Nationality, origin, creed or property status confer no privileges.

THE CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES TO ALL BULGARIAN CITIZENS the right to work, the right to holidays, pensions and social insurance, the right to free medical aid, care for the education of youth, freedom of conscience and of religion, the right to form associations, the freedom and inviolability of the individual, the inviolability of the home, the secret of correspondence, the right to file requests and petitions,

protection for the family, protection for Bulgarian citizens abroad

Articles 34 to 65 speak in detail the basic rights and obligations of the citizens

Art 34

Bulgarian citizenship is acquired and lost in the order established by law

Art 35

1 All citizens of the People's Republic of Bulgaria are equal before the law

2 No privilege or limitations of rights based on nationality, origin, creed, sex, race, education, social and material status are allowed

3 The state secures the equality of the citizens by creating conditions and opportunities for the exercise of their rights and the fulfilment of their obligations

4 The propagation of hate or humiliation of man because of race, national or religious affiliation is forbidden and shall be punishable

Art 36

Women and men enjoy equal rights in the People's Republic of Bulgaria

Art 37

Mothers enjoy special protection and care on behalf of the state, the economic and public organizations, including paid leave of absence before and after childbirth free obstetric and medical care, maternity homes, alleviation in her work, extension of the network of children's establishments, of the enterprises for communal services and public catering

Art 38

1 Marriage and the family are protected by the state

2 Civil marriage alone is legal

3 The spouses have equal rights and obligations in marriage and in the family. Parents have the right and obligation to attend to the upbringing of their children and to their communist education.

4 Children born out of wedlock enjoy equal rights with those born in wedlock.

Art 39

1 The education of the young people in a communist spirit for society as a whole.

2 The family, school, the state bodies and public organizations devote special care for the intellectual, moral, aesthetic, cultural and physical development of the young people, their labour training and polytechnical education.

3 Youth enjoys special protection.

Art 40

1 Citizens have the right to work.

2 Every citizen has the right freely to choose his profession.

3 The state guarantees the right to work by developing the socialist socio-economic system.

Art 41

1 Work is remunerated in accordance with its quantity and quality.

2 Working people have the right to labour safety, which is secured by the introduction of the achievements of science and technology.

Art 42

1 Citizens have the right to a holiday.

2 This right is secured by reducing their working days without diminishing their pay or infringing upon other labour

rights, by annual paid leave and by a wide network of holiday houses, clubs, library clubs, houses of culture and other places for rest and recreation

Art. 43

1 Citizens have the right to insurance, pensioning and assistance in case of incapacity for work due to sickness, accident, maternity, disablement, old age or death and when bringing up a child, as well as to allowances in the cases established by law

2 This right is implemented by a unified system of social security and by setting aside the necessary funds from the national income for financing the insurances

3 The insured take part in the management of social security

Art. 44

Minor, underage, incapacitated and old people, who have no relatives or have been deprived of the care of their relatives, enjoy the special protection of the state and of society

Art. 45

1 Citizens are entitled to free education in all types and grades of educational establishments under conditions determined by law

2 The educational establishments belong to the state

3 Education is based on the achievements of modern science and the Marxist-Leninist ideology

4 Primary education is compulsory

5 The state creates conditions for the introduction of secondary education for all

6 The state promotes education, improves the general conditions for work at the educational establishments, grants scholarships and encourages students who have displayed particular gifts

7 Citizens of non-Bulgarian extraction, in addition to the compulsory study of the Bulgarian language are entitled to study also their own language

Art 46

1 Creativeness in the field of science, art and culture serves the people and develops in a communist spirit

2 The state devotes particular care to the promotion of science, art and culture by setting up higher educational establishments, research institutions, publishing houses, libraries museums, art galleries, theatres, cinemas, radio and television

Art 47

1 The state devotes all round care to the people's health by organising therapeutic, preventive and other health establishments and services

2 The state and the public organizations disseminate health education and culture among the people and promote physical culture and hiking

3 Every citizen is entitled to free medical care

4 The state and the public organizations devote special care to the health of children and adolescents

Art 48

1 The freedom and inviolability of the person are guaranteed

2 No one can be detained for more than 24 hours without a decision of the court or the public prosecutor

Art 49

The home is inviolable Without the consent of the dweller no one can enter the dwelling or its premises, nor make a search there, except in the cases and under the conditions stipulated in the law

Art 50

Every citizen has the right of defence against unlawful interference in his personal or family life and infringement upon his honour and good name

Art 51

The secret of correspondance, telephone conversations and telecommunications is inviolable except in case of mobilization, martial law or when authorized by the court or the public prosecutor

Art 52

1 Citizens may form organization for political, professional, cultural, artistic, scientific, religious, sports and other non economic purposes

2 Citizens may join cooperatives for common economic activity

3 Organization directed against the socialist system of the people's Republic of Bulgaria and the rights of the citizens, which propagate a fascist or other anti democratic ideology, are prohibited

4 The public organizations and cooperatives may form unions or other associations

Art 53

1 The citizens are guaranteed freedom of conscience and of creed. They may perform religious rites and conduct anti religious propaganda

2. The church is separate from the state

3 The legal status and questions concerning the material support, the right of inner structure and self government of the different religious communities are regulated by law

4 The misuse of the church and religion for political purposes, as well as the setting up of political organizations on a religious basis, are prohibited

5 Religion is no justification for refusing to fulfil duties imposed by the Constitution or the laws

Art 54

1 Citizens enjoy freedom of speech, press, meetings, associations and demonstrations

2 These freedoms are guaranteed by placing the necessary material conditions for the purpose at the disposal of the citizens

Art 55

Citizens have the right to make requests, appeals and motions This right is implemented in the order established by law

Art 56

1 The state is responsible for the damaged caused by unlawful acts or unlawful official action of its bodies or officials

2 Every citizen has the right to demand court proceedings to be started against officials for crimes committed while performing their duties

3 Citizens have the right, in accordance with the conditions established by law, to be indemnified by officials for damaged inflicted on them by the unlawful execution of their duties

Art 57

Bulgarian citizens abroad enjoy the protection of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and are obliged to fulfil their duties towards it

Art 58

Citizens are duty bound strictly and in good faith to observe and abide by the Constitution and the laws of the country.

Art 59

1 Every able bodied citizen is obliged to do socially useful work in accordance with his abilities and qualification

2 The fulfilment of the labour obligations is a matter of honour for every member of the socialist society

Art 60

Citizens are duty bound to guard and increase socialist property as an inviolable foundation of the socialist system, to cooperate in strengthening the political, economic and defensive might of the country in the development of culture and the welfare of the people

Art 61

1 The defence of the country is a supreme duty and a matter of honour for every citizen

2 Treason and betrayal of the country are the gravest crimes against the people. They are punished with all the severity of the law

Art 62

Military service is compulsory for all citizens in accordance with the law

Art 63

1 Every citizen is duty bound to help preserve and consolidate peace

2 War incitement and propaganda are prohibited and are punishable by law as grave crimes against peace and mankind

Art 64

The tax obligations of citizens are determined by law according to their income and property

Art 65

The People's Republic of Bulgaria grants the right of asylum to foreigners persecuted for defending the interests of the working people, for participating in the national liberation struggle, for progressive political, scientific and artistic activity, for fighting racial discrimination or in defence of peace

4

STATE BODIES

Democratic centralism, which combines the centralized guidance of society with the widest participation of the masses in state government, is the fundamental principle on which the state system rests. The political foundations of the state apparatus in Bulgaria are the National Assembly and the people's councils, which are elected on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY is the supreme organ of state power in Bulgaria. It is the only supreme body which implements the state power on a national scale.

All other supreme state bodies (the Presidium of the National Assembly, the Government, the Supreme Court

and the Chief Public Prosecutor) are appointed and can be replaced by the National Assembly at any time

The National Assembly determines the guidelines of the nation's home and foreign policy, votes the state budget and the national economic plans. It passes laws, takes decisions, and makes declarations. The acts passed by it are binding on all other state bodies.

The Presidium of the National Assembly is a standing body of state power, elected by the National Assembly and responsible to it

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is the supreme body of state government directly or through the ministries, committees and departments established under it, it guides, coordinates and directs all the nation's administrative, economic and cultural activities, guarantees law and public order, individual rights and liberties, and is in charge of foreign policy and national defence

The members of the Government are elected and released from duty by the National Assembly. The Government is responsible and reports on its activity to the National Assembly

Bulgaria is divided into 28 districts. Every district is a separate administrative and territorial unit, within the limits of which all political, state, economic and cultural life is carried out. The territory of every district is divided into municipalities—urban and rural

State leadership and economic management within the districts and municipalities are in the hands of the respective people's councils and their executive committees

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Articles 66 to 89 of the Constitution are related to the National Council

Art 66

1 The National Assembly is a supreme representative body which expresses the will of the people and their sovereignty

2 The National Assembly is a supreme body of state power

Art 67

The National Assembly combines the legislative and executive functions of the state and exercises supreme control

Art 68

The National Assembly consists of 400 national representatives who are elected in constituencies with an equal number of inhabitants

Art 69

1 The mandate of the National Assembly ends with the expiry of the term for which it was elected

2 The National Assembly may dissolve itself before the expiry of the term of its mandate. In that case it continues to perform its functions until the election of a new National Assembly

3 If the term of the mandate of the National Assembly expires during war time or in other extraordinary circumstances, it may prolong it. It may also prolong the term of its mandate if a state of war is declared or if other extraordinary circumstances set in during elections. In those cases elections for a new National Assembly are held within six months after the causes which necessitated the prolongation of its mandate have ceased to exist

4 The National Assembly may prolong the term of its mandate up to one year for other important reasons too

Art 70

1 Elections for the National Assembly are held two months after the expiry of its mandate at the latest

2 The newly elected National Assembly is called to session one month after the elections at the latest

Art 71

1 The National Assembly is called to sessions by the State Council at least three times a year.

2 The State Council also calls the National Assembly to session when over one fifth of the national representatives demand it

Art 72

The first session of the newly elected National Assembly is opened by the eldest national representative. Under his chairmanship the national representatives elect the president and the deputy presidents of the National Assembly.

Art 73

1 The President of the National Assembly

- (a) Presides over the sessions of the National Assembly,
- (b) Submits a draft agenda of the sessions of the National Assembly,
- (c) Certified with his signature the text of the acts adopted by the National Assembly,
- (d) Organizes the international relations of the National Assembly

2 The President of the National Assembly may entrust a Deputy President with the performance of these activities

Art 74

1 The National Assembly itself checks the legality of the elections of the national representatives. For the purpose at its first session it elects from among its midst an auditing committee, which at the second session after the elections at the latest comes forward with a conclusions before the

National Assembly about their legality The committee does this also in case of by elections of national representatives

2 When the National Assembly finds that an election was held in violation of the law, it cancels it

3 The National Representatives take an oath before the National Assembly

Art 75

The National Assembly itself establishes its interior organization and order of procedure by interior regulations

Art 76

1 The National Assembly elects from among its members standing and interim committees as its bodies It directs and controls their activity

2 The committees are responsible for their activity and report to the National Assembly

3 The standing committees help the activity of the National Assembly, exercise on its behalf control over the ministries and the other departments and the local state bodies and help the implementation of the laws and other acts adopted by the National Assembly

4 Interim committees are elected for issues which are not permanent in character, as well as for investigations and inquiries

5 All state bodies, officials, public organizations and citizens are duty bound to present to the committees all the necessary information and documents in connection with their work

Art 77

The National Assembly is the sole legislative body of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and supreme organizer of the planned of social development

Art 78

The National Assembly,

1 Implements the supreme direction of the state's home and foreign policy

2 Adopts and amends the Constitution

3 Determines which questions and in what order are to be decided by referendum

4 Adopts, amends and repeals the laws

5 Takes measures for the application of the laws and its other acts

6 Adopts the national socio-economic development plans and the reports on their fulfilment

7 Adopts the state budget and the government report on the exercise of the budget for the preceding year

8 Establishes taxes and fixes their rates. It may entrust the Council of Ministers with fixing the rates of taxes owned by state organizations

9 Grants amnesty

10 Decides the question of the declaration of war and the conclusion of peace

11 Appoints and releases from duty the commander in chief of the armed forces

12 Decides questions about changing the frontiers of the People's Republic

13 Ratifies and denounces international agreements

14 Establishes, closes down, merges and renames ministries and other departments of ministerial rank

It may also form state and public bodies of ministerial rank

15 Determines the tasks and the organization of the State Council, the Council of Ministers, the people's councils, the courts and the public prosecutor's Office

Within the system of the Council of Ministers it may set up bodies for direction and coordination in the govern

ment of the state and may determine the decision of which of them have the power of government acts

16 Elects and releases from duty the State Council, the Council of Ministers, the Supreme Court and the Chief Public Prosecutor of the People's Republic

17 Exercises supreme control over the observance of the Constitution and the laws

18 Exercises supreme control over the activity of the state bodies

19 It may entrust consenting public organizations with the performance of certain state functions

Art 79

1 The National Assembly adopts laws, decisions, statements and addresses

2 The laws and decision of the National Assembly are Compulsory for all state bodies, public organizations and persons

Art 80

1 The right of legislative initiative is vested in the State Council, the Council of Ministers, the standing committees of the National Assembly the national representatives, the Supreme Court and the Chief Public Prosecutor

2. The public organizations in the person of the National Council of the Fatherland Front, the General Council of Trade Unions, the Central Committee of the Dimitrov Young Communist League and the Managing Board of the Central Cooperative Union also enjoy the right of legislative initiative on questions pertaining to their activities

Art 81

The National Assembly can hold a session, if more than half of all national representatives are present

Its decisions are taken by an ordinary majority of the national representatives present, except when the Constitution requires another majority

Art 82

The sessions of the National Assembly are public, except when it decides that important state interests call for some of them to be closed sessions

Art 83

1 Bills are adopted by being voted twice at different sittings After being adopted at the first voting, the bill is sent to the respective committees for additional discussions before being put forward for a second voting

2 By decision of the National Assembly, the two votings of the bill may, as an exception, take place at one sitting and without additional discussion in the committees

Art 84

1 The laws, decisions, statements and addresses adopted by the National Assembly are published by the State Council in the Official Gazette not later than 15 days after their adoption

2 The law enters into force three days after its publication, except when another term is specified in the law

3 The other acts of the National Assembly enter into force as soon as adopted by the National Assembly

Art 85

1 The National Assembly sees to it that the laws do not run counter to the constitution

2 It alone decides whether a law runs counter to the Constitution and whether the conditions for its issue required by the Constitution have been observed

Art 86

The national representatives are guided in their activity by the national interests and by the interests of their electorate

Art 87

1 The national representatives have the right to address interpellations to the council of Ministers or to any of its members who are obliged to reply

2 Interpellations made at a session are answered at the same session or, by decision of the National Assembly, at the following session

3 Interpellations made between sessions are answered at the following session

4 If the National Assembly so decides, discussions may take place on the interpellation and a decision may be taken

Art 88

The National representatives may not be detained and penal proceedings may not be started against them, except for grave crimes and with the authorization of the National Assembly and when it is not in session, of the State Council. No authorization for detainment is required when a national representative is caught in the very act of a flagrant crime, in which case the National Assembly and, if it is not in session, the State Council is immediately informed

Art 89

The national representatives shall not be held penally and disciplinarily responsible for the opinions expressed by them and for their voting in the National Assembly

STATE COUNCIL

Article 90 to 97 of the Constitution tell us in detail about the State Council

Art 90

1 The State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is a supreme constantly functioning body of state power, which combines the taking of decisions with their implementation

2 The State Council, as a supreme body of the National Assembly, secures the combination of the legislative with the executive activity

3 It is responsible and report to the National Assembly on its entire activity

Art 91

Within the framework of the Constitution, the State Council organized and controls the fulfilment of the basic tasks deriving from the laws and decisions of the National Assembly, exercises general direction and control over the work of the Council of Ministers and the remaining state bodies, take decisions and implements executive and administrative activity on fundamental questions of the state government

Art. 92

1 The State Council consists of a president, deputy presidents, a secretary and members

2 The National Assembly elects the State Council from among the national representatives at its first session with a majority of more than half of all national representatives.

3 *The mandate of the State Council continues until the newly elected National Assembly elects a State Council*

4 The members of the State Council take an oath before the National Assembly

Art 93

The State Council

1 Appoints elections for a National Assembly and people's councils

2 Appoints the date for holding a referendum when there is a decision of the National Assembly on what question and in what order the referendum should be held

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3 Calls the National Assembly whose mandate has expired, in order to decide the question of prolonging the term of its mandate

4 Exercises the right of legislative initiative

5 Determines what bills introduced into the National Assembly should be submitted to nation wide discussion

6 Publishes the acts adopted by the National Assembly in the Official Gazette

7 Issues decrees and other juridical acts on the basic questions deriving from the laws and decisions of the National Assembly

8 Interprets the laws and normative decrees which are binding for all

9 Implements the general directions of the defence and security of the country

10 Appoints and releases from duty the members of the State Defence Committees

11 Appoints and releases from duty the high comm and of the armed forces and awards high military titles

12 Represents the People's Republic of Bulgaria in its international relations

13 Appoints, recalls and releases from duty, on the proposals of the Council of Ministers, the diplomatic and consular representatives of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in other countries

14 Ratifies and denounces international agreements

15 Establishes diplomatic and consular ranks

16 Sets up and closes down departments of non ministerial rank and appoints and releases from duty their heads

17 Exercises control over the activity of the Council of Ministers and the heads of the ministries and other departments

18 Exercises control over the strict application of the laws and other acts of the National Assembly, as well as over the acts issued by itself

19 Repeals the unlawful or irregular acts of the Council of Ministers and the heads of the ministries or other departments

20 Repeals the unlawful or irregular acts of the people's councils and their executive and administrative bodies

21 Exercises the right of granting pardon

22 Remits not collectible debts to the state

23 Introduces orders and medals and awards them

24 Introduces honorary titles and bestows them

25 Sets up and does away with administrative territorial units. Changes the boundaries of municipalities, town wards and districts and determines their administrative centres

26 Grants, restores and deprives of Bulgarian citizenship

27 Grants the right of asylum

Art 94

The State Council, besides the rights with which it is vested in Art 93 during the period between sessions of the National Assembly

1 Implements the general directions of the home and foreign policy of the state

2 In urgent cases amends or supplements individual stipulations of the laws by decrees

Issues decrees on questions of a matter of principal, affecting the executive and administrative activity in the state

The State Council submits the decrees issued under this paragraph to the National Assembly for approval at its following session

3 Hears reports on the work of the Council of Ministers or of any of its members and takes the respective decisions

4 On the proposal of the President of the Council of Ministers, releases from duty and appoints individual members of the Council of Ministers The State Council is duty bound to submit this decision to the National Assembly for approval at its next session

5 Appoints and releases from duty the commander in chief of the armed forces This decision is submitted to the National Assembly for approval at its following session

6 Implements the general direction and coordinates the work of the people's councils and the executive and administrative bodies of the State

7 Exercises general control over the activity of the Public Prosecutor's Office

8 Proclaims general or partial mobilization, martial law or any other state of emergency

9 Takes measures for collective defence jointly with other countries

10 Proclaims a state of war in case of an armed attack against the People's Republic of Bulgaria or in case an international obligation for mutual defence has to be promptly carried out The State Council calls the National Assembly to session, to make a pronouncement on its above decisions

Art 95

In war time where there is no possibility of convening the national Assembly, in addition to the mandate given to it, the State Council

1 Issues decrees whereby laws may be repealed or amended, or legislatively unsettled issues may be settled The State Council submit these decrees to the National Assembly for approval at its next session

2 Adopts the national socio-economic development plans and the budget, as well as the reports on their implementation

3 Elects and releases from duty the Council of Ministers, the Supreme Court and the Chief Public Prosecutor

Art 96

1 The President of the State Council

(i) Organizes and directs the work of the State Council

(ii) Receives the credentials and recall letters of the foreign diplomatic representatives in the country

2 The State Council may entrust the President of the State Council with the implementation of some of its rights in the order and in the cases determined by the law

Art 97

1 The State Council issues decrees and adopts decisions, addresses and statements

2 The normative decrees of the State Council enter into force three days after their publication in the Official Gazette, except when another time-limit is set in the decree

3 The remaining acts of the State Council enter into force from the day of their adoption except when another time limit is set in them

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (GOVERNMENT)

Articles 98 to 108 of the Constitution deal with the Council of Ministers

Art 98

The Council of Ministers (the government) is a supreme executive and administrative body of the state power

Art 99

1 The Council of Ministers consists of a president of the Council of Ministers, deputy presidents of the Council of

Ministers, and heads of departments with the rank of ministries

2 The members of the Council of Ministers head a ministry or department, respectively. On decision of the National Assembly, individual members of the Council of Ministers may not be in direct charge of a ministry or department

Art 100

The National Assembly determines the number, kind and names of the ministries and of the other departments with the rank of ministries

Art 101

1 The National Assembly elects the president of the Council of Ministers and on his proposal, the deputy presidents and the remaining members of the Council of Ministers

2 Persons who are not national representatives may also be members of the Council of Ministers

3 The members of the Council of Ministers take an oath before the National Assembly

Art 102

1 The Council of Ministers implements its activity under the direction and control of the National Assembly and, when it is not in session, of the State Council

2 The Council of Ministers is responsible for all its activity to the National Assembly and is duty-bound to report to it every year

3 When the National Assembly is not in session, the Council of Ministers is responsible and reports to the State Council

Art 103

The Council of Ministers

1 Organizes the implementation of the home and foreign policy of the state

2 Exercises the right of legislative initiative

3 Draws up the drafts of the national socio-economic development plans and submits them to the National Assembly

4 Elaborates the draft of the annual state budget and submits it to the National Assembly

5 Organizes, directs and controls the fulfilment of the national socio-economic development plans and of the state budget

6 Guarantees conditions for the implementation of the rights and liberties of the citizens

7 Maintains public order and security in the country

8 Implements the general command of the armed forces

9 Concludes international agreements

10 Approves and denounces international agreements which are not subject to ratification

11 Directs, coordinates and exercises immediate control over the activity of the ministries and the other departments

12. Implements direction and control over the executive committees of the people's councils

13 Organizes the implementation of the acts of the National Assembly, the State Council, as well as of the acts issued by it.

14 Repeals the unlawful or irregular acts and actions of the executive committees of the people's councils

15 Repeals the unlawful or irregular acts and actions of ministers and heads of other departments

16. Suspends the execution of unlawful or irregular acts and actions of the people's councils and refers the question of their repeal to the State Council

Art 104

1 The Council of Ministers adopts decrees, orders and decisions

2 The normative acts of the Council of Ministers are published in the official Gazette and enter into force three days after their publication, except when another time limit has been fixed in them. The remaining acts of the Council of Ministers enter into force from the day of their adoption, except when another time-limit has been set in them

Art 105

The Council of Ministers may assume direct control of certain sectors of the administration by forming for this purpose committees, councils, general boards and offices which do not have the rank of ministries

Art 106

The members of the Council of Ministers direct the respective ministries or other departments on the basis of the acts of the National Assembly, the State Council and the Council of Ministers

Art 107

1 The ministers and heads of departments with the rank of ministries have the right, within their competence, to issue orders and to reject the unlawful or irregular acts and actions of the respective special bodies of the people's councils

2 Under the same conditions, they have the right to suspend the acts and actions of the executive committees of the people's councils. If the executive committee does not cancel the suspended act, the difference shall be settled by the Council of Ministers

Art 108

1 The ministers and heads of other departments issue regulations, directives, instructions and orders

2 The regulations, directives and instructions enter into force three days after the date of their publication in the Official Gazette, except when another time limit has been set in them, and the orders from the date of their issue except when another time-limit has been set in them

PEOPLE'S COUNCILS

Articles 109 to 124 are related to the People's Councils

Art 109

1 The territory of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is divided into municipalities and districts. Sofia is divided into administrative territorial districts

2 Other administrative territorial units may be set up by law

Art 110

The municipal and district people's councils are bodies of state power and of the people's self-government in the municipalities and districts

Art 111

1 The people's councils consist of councillors who in their activity are guided by the national interest, the interests of the population in the districts and municipalities, as well as by the interest of the population in their electorate

2 The representation norms in the election of councillors are determined by law

Art 112

The people's councils implement the policy of the state within their territory. They engage in activities aimed at the implementation of state tasks and decide upon questions of local significance

Art 113

The people's councils combine the work on taking decisions and their implementation

Art 114

1 The People's councils, within their competence, direct the development of the economy, the health and public, communal, cultural and educational activities within their territory

2 They carry out their activities by a correct coordination of state and local interests, of branch and territorial planning for the complex development of the respective administrative territorial unit

3 The people's councils work out and adopt a socio-economic development plan of their own and a budget corresponding plan and to the national socio economic development plan and to the state budget and organize and control their fulfilment

4 Within their competence they direct, coordinate and control the activity of the economic organizations and that of the departments within their territory

5 Within their competence, the people's councils supervise the observance of public order and legality and the protection of the citizen's rights, the protection of socialist property and the strengthening of the country's defence capacity

Art 115

The people's council adopt decision, orders, regulations and instructions

Art 116

The district people's councils are called to sessions not less than four times a year, and the municipal and district town councils not less than six times

Art 117

When deciding major questions within their competence, affecting the interests of the population of the respective

administrative territorial unit and an individual inhabited locality (town or village), the people's councils may take decisions on holding a plebiscite, including a referendum

Art. 118

1. The People's Councils elect and release from duty executive committees, set up standing or interim committees and special bodies.

2. The executive committee is an executive and administrative body of the people's council, elected from among the councillors

3. The members of the committees are elected and released from duty by the people's council

Art 119

Executive and administrative bodies in the districts and municipalities outside the system of the people's councils may be set up only by law

Art. 120

In their activity the people's councils rely on the initiative and broad participation of the population and work in close interaction with the political, trade union and other public organizations.

Art. 121

The people's councils make a report on their activities to the electorate at least once a year, in the manner and order determined in the law.

Art 122

The people's councils direct and control the activities of their bodies and rescind their unlawful or irregular acts and actions

Art. 123

The hierarchically superior people's councils direct and control the activity of the hierarchically inferior people's councils

Art 124

1 The hierarchically superior people's councils may rescind the unlawful or irregular acts and actions of the hierarchically inferior people's councils

2 The executive committees of the hierarchically superior people's councils may suspend the implementation of unlawful or irregular acts and actions of the hierarchically inferior people's councils, as well as rescind the unlawful or irregular acts and actions of the executive committees of those people's councils

3 The body which has suspended an unlawful or irregular act or action of the people's council, refers it for cancellation to the respectively superior body of state power

4 Differences arising between ministries and heads of other departments and executive committees of district people's councils shall be settled by the Council of Ministers

COURT AND PUBLIC PROSECUTORS

Articles 125 to 138 of the Constitution give a detailed account of the Court and Public Prosecutors

Art 125

1 The courts implement the administration of justice in the People's Republic of Bulgaria. They protect the state and social system established by the Constitution, socialist property, the life, freedom, honour, rights and legal interests of the citizens as well as the rights and legal interests of the socialist organizations

2. The courts consolidate socialist legality and help the prevention of crimes and other law violations, educate the citizens in a spirit of devotion to the country and the socialist cause, of a conscious implementation of the laws and of labour discipline

3 Within the limits of the law, the courts exercise judicial supervisions over the acts of the administrative bodies and the special jurisdictions

Art 126

1 In the People's Republic of Bulgaria there is a Supreme Court, district courts, regional courts and court martials

2 For certain kinds of cases other judicial bodies may be set up by law

3 No extraordinary courts are allowed

Art 127

1 Assessors take part in the administration of justice, except and when otherwise stipulated in the law

2 In hearing the cases, the assessors have equal rights with the judges

Art 128

The judges and assessors are elective They may be recalled before the expiry of the term for which they were elected

Art 129

1 In implementing their functions, judges and assessors are independent and obey only the law

2 Decisions and sentences are issued in the name of the people

Art 130

The courts apply the laws strictly and equally with regard to all citizens and bodies corporate

Art 131

The structure of the courts, their subordination and jurisdiction, the order of determining the regions of the courts, the procedure of hearing the cases, the conditions, order and term for the election, responsibility and recall of the judges and assessors are regulated by law.

Art 132

1 The Supreme Court is the highest judicial body. Elected for a five year period, it exercises supreme juridical supervision over the activity of all courts and secures the strict and equal application of the laws by them.

2 The Supreme Court exercises juridical supervision also over the activity of the special jurisdictions, unless otherwise stipulated in the law.

3 The Supreme Court is responsible for and reports on its activity to the National Assembly and, between its sessions, to the State council.

Art. 133

1 Supervision over the strict and equal application of the laws by the ministries and other departments, the local state bodies, economic and public organizations, officials and citizens is implemented by the Chief Public Prosecutor.

2. The Public Prosecutors protect the rights and legal interests of the citizens. They combat crime and other law violations by taking measures for their prevention and starting penal proceedings against the perpetrators of the crimes.

3 The public prosecutors are duly-bound to be particularly vigilant and to bring before the court the perpetrators of crimes injurious to the independence and sovereignty of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, as well as to its political and economic interests, for sentence and punishment.

4 The prosecutors take measures for the rescinding of unlawful acts and for the restoration of violated rights.

Art 134

1 The Chief Public Prosecutor is elected for a period of five years. He may be recalled before the expiry of this period.

2 The remaining public prosecutors are appointed and released from duty by the Chief Public Prosecutor and are subordinated to him

3 The Chief Public Prosecutor is responsible to the National Assembly and reports on the activity of the public prosecutors to it, and between sessions, to the State Council

Art 135

1 In fulfilling their official duties, the public prosecutors are independent and act only on the basis of the law

2 The organization of the public prosecutors and the order of the implementation of their activities is regulated by law

Art 136

1 Crimes and penalties are established only by law

2 No law establishing the punishability of an act or increasing the penal responsibility has retroactive force

3 Penalties are personal and correspond to the crimes

4 Penalties for crimes may be imposed only by the established courts

Art 137

1 In the proceedings before the courts the discovery of the objective truth is guaranteed

2 The hearing of the cases in all courts is public, except when otherwise stipulated by law

Art 138

1 In the administration of justice, the citizens have the right of defence

2 The accused is entitled to defence

COAT-OF-ARMS, SEAL, FLAG, CAPITAL**Art 139**

The coat-of-arms of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is round, with a lion rampant on a cog-wheel in the centre of a sky-blue back-ground is flanked by wheat ears, enveloped in the middle in a national tricolor band, above the lion there is a red five-pointed star and below, where the wheat ears intertwine, the years of the foundation of the Bulgarian state and of the victory of the socialist revolution in Bulgaria are written in gold on a red band

Art. 140

The state coat-of-arms is depicted on a state seal, with an inscription around it "People's Republic of Bulgaria", and in the lower part "State Seal"

Art 141

The flag of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is tricolor-white, green and red, placed horizontally. The state coat-of arms is depicted in the left-hand upper corner of the white field.

Art 142

The city of Sofia is the capital of the People's Republic of Bulgaria

5

ELECTORAL SYSTEM, PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

ELECTORAL SYSTEM

The electoral system of the People's Republic of Bulgaria guarantees the participation of the people in state government. The profoundly democratic character of the electoral system is demonstrated primarily in the fact that it secures a general, equal and direct right to vote by secret ballot, without any restrictions or discrimination regarding either the right to vote or the right to be elected, due to race, creed, nationality, education, political beliefs, sex or property status.

A principle of the electoral system is the periodical replacement of the deputies.

PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS

The majority of the working people in Bulgaria

are members of social and political organizations and thus participate actively in public life

(a) Political Parties—There are two political parties in Bulgaria

The Bulgarian Communist Party is the leading force of the socialist system. It was founded in 1891 on the initiative of Dimitar Blagoev, the pioneer of socialism in Bulgaria. The official organ of the Bulgarian Communist Party is the *Rabotnichesko Delo* newspaper. The party now has more than 672,000 members.

The Bulgarian Agrarian Union was founded in 1900 as a political party. The official organ of the Bulgarian Agrarian Union is the *Zemedelsko Zname* newspaper. The Union has 120,000 members.

(b) Socio Political Organization—The Fatherland Front is the largest mass social and political organization. It has 3,762,500 members. The official organ of the Fatherland Front is the *Otechestven Front* newspaper.

The Dimitrov Young Communist League is a unified organization of Bulgarian youth. It is a member of the World Federation of Democratic Youth. The Dimitrov Young Communist League has 1,161,000 members. Its official organ is the *Natodna Mladezh* newspaper.

The Bulgarian trade unions are the largest public and non-party organization of industrial and office workers. They have a total of 2,486,988 members. The official organ of the trade unions is the *Troud* newspaper.

(c) Cultural Organizations—(i) Bulgarian Writers Union with 309 members,

(ii) Union of Bulgarian Journalists, with 2,892 members,

(iii) Union of Bulgarian Artists, with 696 members

(iv) Union of Bulgarian Composers, with 123 members,

- (v) Union of Bulgarian Scientists, with 3,844 members,
- (vi) Scientific-Technical Association, with 184,559 members,
- (vii) Union of Bulgarian Teachers, with 163,752 members
- (d) Other Mass Organizations—(i) Bulgarian Red Cross, with 1,771,593 members,
- (ii) Bulgarian Union for Physical Education and Sports, with 1,135,683 members,
- (iii) Bulgarian Hikers Union, with 862,673 members,
- (iv) National Hunters and Anglers Union, with 124,544 members

THE PARTY'S TASKS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The foreign policy of the Bulgarian Communist Party is determined by the socialist character of the Bulgarian society, by the Marxist Leninist nature of the Party. It is a consistently internationalistic, truly democratic and profoundly peace-loving policy. This policy has the purpose of contributing to the utmost to the defence of the gains of the socialist revolution, to the building of an advanced socialist society in the country, to the consolidation of the unity of the world socialist system and to militant fraternity among the communists of all countries, to the intensification of the liberation struggle of the nations and of the working people, to the development and extension of the world revolutionary process, to the rallying of all revolutionary forces in the struggle for national independence and against imperialism, to the consolidation of peace and co-operation among nations, to the triumph of socialism in the world.

In the past decades proletarian internationalism and Bulgaro-Soviet friendship became deeply rooted in the Party, they became its distinctive trait, a characteristic national feature of the Bulgarian nation. The Bulgarian communists and the people know that the People's Republic of Bulgaria

would not have been able to achieve such big successes, to set and to fulfil the tasks of the present programme without the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, under the beneficial influence of which the Bulgarian Party has grown and matured, without all round Soviet support in literally all spheres of life. For the Bulgarian Communist Party and the Bulgarian people Bulgaro Soviet friendship is what sunshine and air are for every living being, it is a friendship going back in the centuries and a friendship for centuries to come, it is one of the chief motive forces of the Bulgarian development, a condition for and a guarantee of the future progress of the Bulgarian socialist society, of its morrow.

Proceeding from its national and international tasks and obligations the Bulgarian Communist Party will in the future, too

develop and deepen with all its might the fraternity, unity of purpose and of action with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and pursue a policy of bringing the People's Republic of Bulgaria ever closer to the Soviet Union,

work systematically for the further consolidation of the unity and solidarity of the parties and countries of the socialist community, for the development of co-operation and mutual assistance on a bilateral and multilateral basis with the fraternal socialist states, for extending economic integration among them,

extend the co-operation with the socialist states in the sphere of international relations for the closest unity of action and coordination of their foreign policy,

make its contribution to the strengthening of the defensive might of the world socialist system,

develop its bonds with the communist and workers parties and strive towards the strengthening of the unity of the communist movement on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism,

make its contribution to the achievement of unity of action within the ranks of the international working class and its organizations,

wage an offensive struggle against bourgeois ideology, against anti communism and anti Sovietism,

extend contacts and co operation with the newly liberated and developing countries and continue to afford all round assistance to the struggle of the peoples against colonial slavery, for freedom and independence

co operate for the consolidation of the unity of action and cohesion of all the anti imperialist forces,

pursue, together with the other peace loving forces, the struggle against the aggressive action of imperialism, for the prevention of a world thermo nuclear conflict, for a complete ban on nuclear weapons, for general and complete disarmament, for peace and security in Europe and the world over,

pursue a policy of peaceful coexistence in our country's relations with the capitalist states, of co operation in the field of economy, tourism, culture, science and technology on a mutually advantageous basis,

continue to pay particular attention to and make all possible efforts for the transformation of the Balkans into a zone of peace and security, of good neighbourly relations and fruitful co operation, in the spirit of its traditions and constructive policy

The Bulgarian Communist Party has been and will always be a loyal detachment of the international communist movement. It will continue to march in the united international formation, together with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the fraternal parties of the other socialist states, with the world communist movement, with the international working class and the national liberation movement in the struggle against imperialism, for peace, democracy and socialism

THE PARTY'S LEADING ROLE IN THE BUILDING OF AN ADVANCED SOCIALIST SOCIETY

The Bulgarian Communist Party is a supreme form of political organization of the working class, its tested Marxist Leninist vanguard, the universally recognized leader of the people. As a militant general staff of the working people, it rallies and directs their efforts towards the common goal. The Communist Party elaborates the general line and the policy in socialist construction, defines the main trends of the development of the economy, social relations and culture, of the improvement of the general standard of life and of the nation's foreign policy. All the achievements and successes in socialist construction have been attained under the leadership of the Party. The working people respect and love the Communist Party, they have faith in the Party, they follow the Party. Communism, its great ideal, is becoming the ideal of all the working people of the whole nation.

The Communist Party is a living political organism. The consolidation of the social unity of society and the coming closer of the interests of the other social classes and groups to the interests of the working class objectively create prerequisites for the Communist Party of the working class gradually to grow into a Marxist Leninist vanguard of the people, to become the Party of the whole nation. By expressing and defending the interests of all the people, it continues to pursue a clearly expressed class, proletarian policy. Its principles, aims and tasks, its approach to the processes and phenomena in public life are consistently class and party ones.

The stage of the building of an advanced socialist society is characterized by an ever bigger growth of the role and importance of the Communist Party as a leading and guiding force. This is a natural process which is conditioned by the extended scale and complexity of socialist construction, by

the acceleration of the social processes under the impact of the rapidly developing revolution in science and technology, by the complication of social relations and the promotion of the role of the system of public administration in the functioning of the whole social system, by the intensification of the creative activity of the masses and the broadening of socialist democracy, by the growing importance of the theory of scientific communism, the generalization of the new practice and the great tasks of the communist education of the people, by the class struggle between socialism and capitalism on a world scale, by the necessity to work out a correct foreign policy and by the international responsibility of the Bulgarian socialist state

The negation or underrating of the leading role of the Party inevitably leads to a retreat from class and party positions, to manifestations of anti socialist elements, harms the interests of the people and creates the danger of a deformation of the socialist system and of a restoration of capitalism

The requirements set to the scientific level of Party work and leadership are growing. The organic unity of science and politics, of theory and practice is a characteristic feature of Party leadership and its basic principle.

Under the present conditions the importance of theoretical work and its tasks grow still more. Marxist Leninist theory has always been a guide to action for the Bulgarian Communist Party, both in the struggle against capitalism and in the building of socialism. Marxist Leninist theory will continue to ensure a scientific approach in the guidance of the nation's economic public and cultural life and will illuminate the road of practice. The Party will pay continuous attention to the purity of Marxist Leninist theory, to its creative development and application. Its organs and organizations will ever more fully use modern methods of scientific analysis in their political, organizational and ideological work. they will ever more rely on the achievements of

Marxist Leninist philosophy, political economy, scientific communism and the other social sciences

Analyzing the trends and needs of social development on the basis of the fullest and most objective information and summarizing the experience of the masses, the Party overcomes the contradictions and difficulties and solves the problems facing society

The basic concern of the Party in its ideological work, to which it attributes paramount importance for the further development of the socialist system is

to propagate with passion and persuasion the great ideas of Marx, Engels and Lenin, and to instil them as an integral outlook of all the working people, of the whole nation,

to ardently convince the working people with sound arguments of the profound justice and fruitfulness of the Party policy, to make this policy their vital cause, to make them conscientious fighters for its implementation,

to provide answers to the new problems brought to life by the progress of science and social practice, to specify, enrich and creatively develop the ideas of Marxism Leninism and to shed light upon the future,

to wage an offensive battle against bourgeois ideology, against right and 'left wing opportunism, to preserve the purity of the Marxist Leninist teaching

The degree of activity of the masses in the socio political, economic and cultural life the extent of the transformation of the Marxist Leninist ideas and of the policy of the Party into a material force, are the chief criterion of the effectiveness of its ideological work

The elaboration of a science based strategy of the ideological work, hammered out in close connection with the

tasks of building an advanced socialist society and of combating the ideological diversion of imperialism is one of the basic conditions for purposeful, efficient and promising work on the entire ideological front

The leading role of the Party largely depends upon its development and functioning as an enterprising political organization, relying on the strict observance of democratic centralism and on its consistent development. The Party considers it its paramount duty to respect and apply the Leninist principles of Party leadership and norms of Party life, to extend internal Party democracy, criticism and self criticism, unswervingly to apply the collective method of leadership, not to permit negative phenomena which might lead to abuse of power, to the violation of socialist democracy and revolutionary legality, to subjectivism and voluntarism. In accordance with the objective requirements, the Party will improve its organizational structure, forms and methods of leadership, and broaden the participation of all Party members in the discussion and elaboration of Party policy. Full attention and respect will be paid to the views and proposals of the communists. Strictest responsibility will be sought of those who violate the Party rules, restrict the rights of the communists and stifle criticism.

The Leninist principle of democratic centralism makes it necessary, parallel with the development of internal Party democracy, to tighten to the utmost discipline within the Party, and to strengthen its ideological and organizational unity. Complete democracy, freedom of opinion and of criticism in the discussion of all problems, conscious iron discipline and unity of action after a decision has been adopted by a majority, strict fulfilment of the decisions of the superior elected organs—such is the inviolable law of Party life compulsory for all the communists, wherever they work and whatever post they hold.

The concentration and specialization in the economy and science turn the Party locals into political leaders of

large production and social units. The problems they have to solve grow in volume and become more complex in character. The new stage of development requires that the responsibilities of the Party locals be raised, their rights and control functions be extended and their vanguard role be enhanced.

It is therefore imperative for every Party local to live with the problems of the work forces and the whole complex of questions connected with the work and way of life of millions of people, with the great national tasks and plans of the Party and socialist state.

The Party will continue to take measures aimed at the proper regulation of its social and qualitative composition. The great responsibility of the Party and all communists to the people makes it imperative to raise the requirements for those wishing to join the Party ranks. The Party unites the best and most conscientious men and women of the working class, the co-operative farmers, the intelligentsia and of the whole nation.

The Party considers it an important obligation to raise the theoretical and political level, general culture and special education of the communists and to enhance their leading role as educators, organizers and leaders of the working people. Every communist must have a strong sense of responsibility for the state of affairs in his particular organization and in the Party in general. He is responsible for the Party, just as the Party is responsible for him. A basic rule in the life of the Party and all its locals will be to safeguard in future as well the purity of their ranks, to rid them of anyone who does not justify the high honour of being a member of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

Implementing its leading role through its members, the Party unites and directs the efforts of the state and public organs and organizations to a single aim, employing its own

methods of organizational, ideological and educational work
This means that the Party organs and organizations

must secure the implementation of the Party political line when working out and putting into effect the basic tasks, which are being implemented by the state and public organizations,

must consistently delimit its leading political functions from the functions of the other bodies in the systems of public administration, every one of which has its own field of action, its specific structure, forms and methods of work,

must carry out more consistently a policy of respect for and trust in the cadres, of strict and highly principled exactingness towards them, of rallying the forces knowledge and experience of all generations and all detachments of cadres. In future too a class and party minded approach must be used in the selection and distribution of cadres. The best representatives of the working class, as well as those of the other categories of working people who are politically sound and show organizational ability are to be elected to the leading bodies of the Party and public organizations and promoted to responsible state and economic work.

The Party's ties with the people's masses are to be further developed and enriched. The method of persuasion and education is to be still more broadly applied as a basic method of Party leadership. The education of the Party policy and of the present tasks, taking into consideration the opinion and suggestions of the working people, the profound study of the legitimate needs and specific interests of the working people and the constant concern to satisfy them, a frank discussion of the difficulties in the social development, of the shortcomings and weaknesses, the negative phenomena and trends observed in certain circles, and a consistent effort to surmount them—this is the policy of the Party in its relations with non Party people.

The Party considers it its duty to supply prompt and detailed information to the working people on domestic and international events, as well as on the actions it is about to take. In this way alone, the people will be aware of the Party policy and will rally around it more and more.

In the future as well, a prime concern of the Party will be to strengthen the mutual confidence and unity among leaders, Party, class and the people.

The strength of the Communist Party resides in its fidelity to the Marxist Leninist principles, in the correspondence between words and deeds, in its unshakable ideological and organizational unity, in the ideological stability and the moral and political qualities of the communists, in its strong ties with the working class and the people in its loyalty to proletarian internationalism and the world communist and workers Movement.

COMMUNISM—THE FINAL GOAL OF THE BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

Centuries on end people all over the world have dreamt and died for freedom and bread, for human rights and a decent life. Centuries on end the finest minds have mapped out plans for a harmonious and happy society, free from bloody conflicts and social inequality, from oppression and exploitation.

Rebellions, uprisings and revolutions have shaken countries and continents, governments and monarchies have been overthrown, empires and social orders have crumbled. And every time a new exploiter class would replace the old one.

This is how it was until the proletariat appeared on the historical stage, the only exploited and oppressed class which cannot free itself from the class exploiting and oppressing it without setting the whole society forever free from exploitation, oppression and class struggles.

For the first time in the history of human thought, the Marxist Leninist teaching replaced dreams and utopias with a science based, well knit theory for the transformation of the world and defined the ways and means of achieving this

Years passed The ideas of scientific communism captivated the hearts and minds of the world proletariat The red banner of the October victory of the proletariat proudly floated over one sixth of the earth, heralding the advent of the long expected new era A strong communist movement developed all over the world The socialist revolution triumphed in a number of countries in Europe, Asia and America The world socialist system made its appearance A number of newly liberated countries rejected the capitalist mode of development and turned their eyes towards socialism

Today communism is no longer a wonderful dream, it has become a living reality for hundreds of millions of people in the world of socialism, and a real and tangible goal for other hundreds of millions of proletarians, rising to a decisive battle in the countries where the bourgeois class is still in power

The Soviet people, in whose land the first socialist revolution triumphed, who were the first to build socialism, are also the first in the world to turn the final goal—the building of a communist society — into their immediate practical task

Communism is a classless social system with a common public ownership over the means of production, with complete social equality of all members of society, where, along with the all round development of the people, the productive forces will grow on the basis of the continuous progress of science and technology, where all sources of public wealth will flow generously, and the great principle ' From everyone according to his abilities to everyone according to his needs

will become a reality. Communism is a highly organized society of free and conscientious workers, in which self government will be established, where work for the good of society will become the prime living necessity for everyone, a realized necessity, and where the abilities of every individual will be most usefully employed for the greatest benefit of the people.

The final goal of the Bulgarian Communist Party is to build a communist society in Bulgaria as an indivisible part of the world communist system.

To achieve this end, the Bulgarian Communist Party is guided by the principle of the gradual evolution of socialism into communism as an objective law governed process. The necessary economic, social, ideological, cultural and other prerequisites for the transition from the first, the socialist, to the higher, the communist phase are created in the process of the development of the mature socialist society.

In the highest phase of communist formation, the productive forces are distinguished by an exceptionally high development. Complete automation and cybernation reign supreme in social production. Communism changes the character of work, but does not free the members of society from work. Work is to a high degree directly public and socially homogeneous. It is not an obligation but a vocation, a natural and free expression of a creative elan, for the benefit of society, as it becomes a conscious necessity and a prime and vital need of man.

Under communism the production relations are based upon all out communist ownership, which makes for further improvement and co operation, mutual assistance and comradesly emulation. The products of labour lose their commodity form. Money and the market disappear. Consumer goods are distributed according to the people's constantly growing needs.

Material dependence disappears in the sphere of personal relations. Marital relations become absolutely free of material considerations and rest solely on love, friendship and respect.

Under communism cultural development reaches the highest possible peak. Science is fully and solely devoted to the development of the productive forces, the government of society, the physical and cultural development and improvement of man. Arts become a part of all spheres of life and completely serve the aesthetic formation of man and human relations according to the laws of beauty.

Communism is characterized by self government, in which all members of society take an active part. The unified norms of communist society exert a tremendous guiding force.

The leisure time of people increases, which is a proof of the prosperity of society. It is a source of the reproduction of their physical and intellectual forces, of versatile creative endeavour. The abilities, talents and virtues of free man flourish and are given the opportunity of full expression. The chief traits of man in communist society are a high degree of conscientiousness, diligence, discipline and devotion of the interests of society. Typical of him are the unity between the consciousness for collective effort and individual creative expression, between universality of the spirit and specialization in a given field, between freedom of action and self-control in one's activity. Under communism inner wealth, moral beauty and physical perfection are harmoniously combined in man.

The world communist economy, regulated by a unified plan, is gradually built up by means of the accelerated extension and intensification of integration among the socialist states and its further development along the road to communism. The international forms of organizing social produ

tion improve International communist ownership is formed and developed Simultaneously the nations draw ever closer together until their full merger in the future on the basis of the commonness of their economic and cultural interests, on the basis of brotherly friendship and co-operation

Under communism, society completely passes over from the realm of necessity to the realm of freedom

Communism is the wonderful future of all peoples

Communism is the wonderful future towards which the Bulgarian Communist Party is confidently leading the Bulgarian peoples

The building of an advanced socialist society in Bulgaria will once again justify and exalt the long struggles of the Party and the people, the self-sacrifice of the fighters who perished in the struggle for the victory of the revolution, the selfless efforts of the millions of workers, it will be a decisive step towards the final goal of the Party

In this stormy, difficult and glorious century this will be the contribution of the Bulgarian people to the world fight for peace and progress, for socialism and communism

Under the banner of communism and in the united fraternal ranks of the world revolutionary movement, the Bulgarian Communist Party has traversed a historic path from Mount Bouzioudja in the Balkan Range through the Vladya June and September uprisings, the victory of the socialist revolution on September 9 1944, to the peaks of present-day Bulgaria Through all these heroic years the proletariat and the working people marched with their Communist Party believed in its justice, were inspired by its ideas responded to its appeals in mass The voice of the Party never echoed in Bulgaria "noiselessly as it would in a desert", it never failed to evoke a nation-wide response And the people's devotion to, trust and confidence in their Party was never deceived Therein lies the strength of the Party and the Bulgarian people

Today, the Bulgarian Communist Party calls the working class, the co-operative farmers, the people's intelligentsia, youth, women and the whole nation

under the banner of Marxism Leninism and proletarian internationalism,

in fraternal friendship with the great Soviet Union and the socialist states,

in close ranks with the international communist and workers movement, with all progressive forces in the world,

for the triumph of the communist ideals, for a peaceful and happy future of the children, for the all round development, glory and greatness of Bulgaria,

to persevering, selfless, inspired work and struggle for the fulfilment of the Party programme, for the building of an advanced socialist society in the dear country !